



LANDSLIDE/MUDSLIDE SAFETY & PREVENTION

Landslide/Mudslide Planning

- Learn about landslide/mudslide risk in your area by contacting your City or County government office of planning or public works department (check yellow pages online or phone book). Ask for information on landslides in your area, specific information on areas vulnerable to landslides, and request a professional referral for a very detailed site analysis of your property, and corrective measures you can take, if necessary.
- Discuss landslides and debris flow with your family. Everyone should know what to do in case all family members are not together. Discussing disaster ahead of time helps reduce fear and lets everyone know how to respond during a landslide or debris flow.
- Develop a Family Disaster Plan: Contact the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles at (800) 627-7000 and ask for a brochure on developing a family disaster plan.

Before the Storm

- Watch the patterns of storm-water drainage on slopes near your home, and especially the places where runoff water converges, increasing flow over soil-covered slopes. Watch the hillsides around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides or debris flows, or progressively tilting trees. Watching small changes could alert you to the potential of a greater landslide threat.

During the Storm

- Stay alert and awake. Many debris-flow fatalities occur when people are sleeping. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or portable, battery-powered radio or television for warnings of intense rainfall. Be aware that intense, short bursts of rain may be particularly dangerous, especially after longer periods of heavy rainfall.
- If you are in areas susceptible to landslides and debris flows, consider evacuating if it is safe to do so. Remember that driving during an intense storm can be hazardous. If you remain at home, move to a second story if possible. Staying out of the path of a landslide or debris flow saves lives.
- Listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of flowing or falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides. Moving debris can flow quickly and sometimes without warning.
- If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow and for a change from clear to muddy water. Such changes may indicate landslide activity upstream, so be prepared to move quickly. Don't delay! Save yourself, not your belongings.

Continued other side...

- Be especially alert when driving. Embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to landslides. Watch the road for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flows.

IF YOU SUSPECT IMMINENT LANDSLIDE DANGER

- 1. Contact your local fire, police, or public works department.**
- 2. Inform affected neighbors. Help neighbors who may need assistance to evacuate.**
- 3. Evacuate. Getting out of the path of a landslide or debris flow is your best protection.**

What to do During a Landslide

- Quickly move out of the path of the landslide or debris flow. Moving away from the path of the flow to a stable area will reduce your risk.
- If escape is not possible, curl into a tight ball and protect your head. A tight ball will provide the best protection for your body.

What to do After a Landslide

- Stay away from the slide area. There may be danger of additional slides.
- Check for injured or trapped people near the slide, without entering the slide area. Direct rescuers to their location.
- Help a neighbor who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. People who care for the elderly or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.
- Listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information.
- Watch for flooding, which may occur after a landslide or debris flow. Floods sometimes follow landslides and debris flows because they may both be started by the same event.
- Look for and report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities. Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.
- Check the building foundation, chimney, and surrounding land for damage. Damage to foundations, chimneys, or surrounding land may help you assess the safety of the area.
- Replant damaged ground as soon as possible as erosion caused by loss of ground cover can lead to flash flooding.
- Seek the advice of a geotechnical expert for evaluating landslide hazards or designing corrective techniques to reduce landslide risk. A professional will be able to advise you of the best ways to prevent or reduce landslide risk, without creating further hazard.

-Information was obtained from American Red Cross [<http://www.redcross.org/>]-

DeCarli, J (2009)